

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14–16, and 20–22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,825,218 to Colli. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 to recite the feature of an “active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior for regulating the voltage on the capacitor. Applicants respectfully submit that Colli does not disclose, recognize, or imply the feature of an “active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior.” Therefore, Colli does not anticipate claims 1, 9, 16 and 22. Specifically, Colli does not teach a feedback circuit having analog behavior. For example, comparator 28 in Colli is digital, not analog. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s assertion on page 3 of the Office Action that comparator 28 is an analog component. Thus, in Colli as described in Figure 5, as soon as Vout drops below Vref, comparator 28 output goes low, M3 turns off, M1 turns on, and pulls Vout down as far as it can. All that the circuit in Colli knows is to turn all the way on or off. Colli does not teach the voltage regulating function as recited in claims 1, 9, 16, and 22. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection be withdrawn because amended claims 1, 9, 16, and 22 (and therefore claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14–15 which are dependent from claims 1 and 9) recite the feature of an “active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior ” which is not disclosed, recognized or implied by Colli.

With respect to claim 20, the claimed method of having a “hold period” as recited in claim 20 is not disclosed disclosed, recognized, or implied by Colli. For example, Figures 3 and 7 of Colli show charging and discharging to saturation. In order to advance the prosecution of this case, applicants have amended claim 20 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 20 to recite the feature of a “recovery network including an active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior.” As set forth above with respect to claims 1, 9, 16, and 22, Applicants

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respectfully submit that Colli does not disclose, recognize, or imply the feature of an “active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior.” Therefore, Colli does not anticipate claim 20 as well. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection be withdrawn because claim 20 (and therefore claim 21 which is respectively dependent thereon) recite the feature of a hold mode and an “active negative feedback circuit which exhibits analog behavior” which is not disclosed, recognized or implied by Colli.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

At paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Colli et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection of claim 6 for reasons unnecessary to detail at this time because this claim depends from claim 1 and thereby incorporates the patentably distinguishing features of claim 1 as noted above.

At paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 7, 13, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Colli in view of Diller. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection of claims 7, 13, and 19 for reasons unnecessary to detail at this time because these claims depend from claims 1, 9, and 16 respectively and thereby incorporate the patentably distinguishing features of claims 1, 9, and 16 as noted above.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

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OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS AS BEING DEPENDENT ON A REJECTED CLAIM

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 10, and 18 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. At this time and in view of Applicants' above remarks concerning the patentability of the base claims, Applicants have not rewritten these claims in independent form. However, Applicant wishes to reserve all rights related to these claims and respectfully requests that objections to any of these claims 3, 10, and 18 be withdrawn in view of the above.

Other features of the claims are believed to further distinguish the claimed invention from the cited prior art. Discussion of these features is believed to be unnecessary at this time, however, in view of the basic differences pointed out above.

CONCLUSION

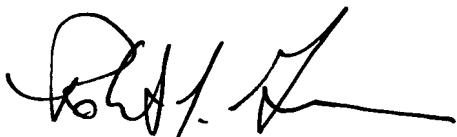
In view of the above discussion and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims as now amended are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney below at (612) 371-5305.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
3100 Norwest Center
90 South Seventh Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
(612) 332-5300

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By:


Robert J. Glance
Reg. No. 40,620

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